

Sisk, Richard

From: Schmittiel, Paula
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 10:29 AM
To: Sisk, Richard; Wharton, Steve; Murray, Bill; Hestmark, Martin; Stavnes, Sandra
Cc: MacDonald, Frances; Chergo, Jennifer
Subject: FW: VB/I-70 Update

FYI – Jennifer is sending this update to City & State staff, City Council & Staff and Congressionals (or coordinating with Sandy Fells) on our mailing yesterday of 103 letters to non-responsive property owners at OU1 @ VB/I-70.

Stay tuned for any reaction.

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The Vasquez Boulevard and Interstate 70 Superfund Site (VB/I-70) Update:

On June 3, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is mailing letters to approximately 80 property owners within the VB/I-70 boundaries. These property owners have not given EPA permission to either sample or clean up lead and/or arsenic contamination in the yard soils at their properties. This mailing is significant because it, for the first time, communicates the actions that EPA is intending to take should these property owners continue to refuse EPA access to their property. The actions include recording a notice on the property file at the City & County of Denver Clerk and Recorder's office and mailing an annual letter to the property owner and to the property address (in case there are tenants) about the known or potential contamination. These actions, referred to as institutional controls, are necessary to ensure that current residents and future potential buyers of these properties are informed of the potential environmental risk. EPA coordinated with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Denver Department of Environmental Health and provided briefings for the appropriate city council members and staff to craft institutional controls that would be both respectful of current property owners while also being protective of future property owners and current and future residents.

The properties affected are within the VB/I-70 site boundaries, which comprises more than 4,500 properties in the neighborhoods of Cole, Clayton, Swansea, Elyria, and a small section of Curtis Park. EPA listed VB/I-70 on the National Priorities List of Superfund Sites in 1998, and has been working to investigate and remove elevated levels of lead and/or arsenic from yard soils since. To date, EPA has sampled approximately 98 percent of the properties in the site, and removed and replaced soil at nearly 800 of those properties. EPA is currently attempting one final effort to gain access to the remaining properties, and outreach efforts in 2012 and 2013 have resulted in 80 or so new access agreements. Of those, EPA found that about 15 properties require a cleanup, which will occur this summer.

For more background and information on the VB/I-70 Superfund Site, please visit the EPA VB/I-70 Webpage at:
<http://www2.epa.gov/region8/vasquez-boulevard-i-70>

Or, feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concern you may have.
Thank you.

Jennifer Chergo

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